

## HAMNET BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY 1 August 2004

HAMNET is the Official Emergency Communications network of the South African Radio League and provides emergency communication to local, regional and national authorities, when requested to do so.

THIS BULLETIN WAS COMPILED AND PREPARED BY FRANCOIS BOTHA ZS6BUU.

IN THE BULLETIN TODAY:-

BULLETINS AROUND THE COUNTRY HAMNET FIELD DAY CONTEST RESULTS EMERGENCIES AROUND THE WORLD WINTER WEATHER CONDITIONS AMATEUR RADIO AND SEA RESCUE

### 1. HAMNET BULLETINS AROUND THE COUNTRY

KZN Sunday morning at 07H00 on their local VHF repeaters with a relay on 7.070MHz. KZN also have a Wednesday evening call-up and meeting on their 2M repeater system.

National Bulletin at 17H00 local on 145,700MHz, 10,130Mhz in the 30M band with a relay on 7.070Mhz in the 40M band. Current winter time is 16H30.

The Gauteng North bulletin will follow immediately after the National Bulletin on 145,725MHz in the Pretoria area on Sundays.

North West Province have a club bulletin on Mondays, which includes a Hamnet segment at 19H00 local on 3,750Mhz in the 80M band as well as their local repeater on 145.737.5Mhz.

Hamnet Western Cape Province meet on Wednesdays at 20H30 local on 145:700MHz, relayed on 3,674MHz.

The HAMNET Bulletin is sent to all those of whom I have an e-mail address and also sent out on packet by Rudi, ZS6DX.

### 2. HAMNET FIELD DAY CONTEST RESULTS

Al Akers, ZS2U, informed me that the results of the Hamnet Field Day 40M contest held in April have become available. He is still writing up an article for publication later on with the full results, but herewith the various categories with the first and second operators.

SINGLE OPERATOR MOBILE STATION 1. ZS5SK Peter with 568 points  
2. ZS1B Bud with 555 points 3. ZS5M Martin with 480 points

SINGLE OPERATOR PORTABLE 1. ZS2U Al with 1944 points 2. ZS2AJ Andre with 974 points 3. ZS2MW Matt with 825 points

BASE STATION OPERTOR 1. ZS6BUU Francois with 1876 points 2. ZS5WP Wally with 790 points 3. ZS5T Edwin with 670 points

For some or other reason, no logs were received from Multi Operator stations, and in total only 9 logs were received despite more than 30 participants. Al indicated that the contest went well and the logs were pretty well done and good fun was had by all.

My congratulations to all the winners.

### 3. EMERGENCIES AROUND THE WORLD

During the month of July, the globe experienced 9 natural disasters, of which one or two were not listed at the time of this download from the Relief Website.

The countries are Nicaragua with mudslides, Turkey with yet another earthquake, China with a typhoon named Mindulle and the accompanying flooding.

Nepal had floods and landslides and Peru had severe snowstorms and cold weather which killed many people. Tajikistan had floods as well as Japan. The last two countries which also experienced flooding were Afghanistan and Viet Nam.

One disaster not listed was the gas explosion in Belgium on Thursday which also killed a number of people including Paramedics and Fire fighters.

Complex emergencies are being experienced in 26 countries at present starting with Afghanistan and ending with West Africa. Again, 13 of the 26 countries were African countries, from drought in the Horn of Africa, the genocide of the people in the Sudan and fighting in the Central African states.

The worst hit area appears to be South East Asia (Bangladesh) where as many as 42 million people are stranded or homeless and as many as 925 have lost their lives. With more than 30% of the country flooded, and more rain expected from monsoon activity, the situation is critical.

Japan had to evacuate 25,500 people due to heavy seasonal rain and mudslides.

Peru has had unusually high snow falls with some areas being covered by as much as 75 cm of snow. Peru has some high altitude towns and cities which are above the 4000 metre mark. In Cuzco, for those who would like to look at their maps, the community of Chillihuani really felt the brunt of the heavy falls. The Ministry of Health indicated that 1.4 million people with respiratory infections and 400,000 with pneumonia have received medical attention.

The typhoon in China killed almost 700 people and destroyed crops to the value of \$4.76 billion and affected arable land of almost 18 million hectares.

### 4. WINTER CONDITIONS AROUND THE COUNTRY

In South Africa at present, winter has arrived with a vengeance. The Eastern Cape, southern Kwa-Zulu Natal regions and the Drakensberg were the worst hit with heavy snow falls in some areas.

People are advised not to travel to these areas where heavy snow falls have occurred but if travel is necessary, to drive with utmost care.

There is another cold front heading toward the Cape, but it is too early at this stage to tell if this front will pass over the country as a high is pushing this front south of the country at present.

The other problem being experienced currently is veld fires. Motorists again are cautioned to reduce speed especially where smoke blows across the road and where visibility is impaired.

## 5. AMATEUR RADIO AND SEA RESCUE

With acknowledgement to the ARRL, a report downloaded from their ARES website regarding the rescue of a couple aboard a privately owned sailboat in the Pacific Ocean.

The drama began on July 25 which eventually involved Amateur Radio operators from the United States, French Polynesia and Australia, and I can assure you, this eventually turned into a very complicated drama.

To cut a very long article short, the yacht Fingolfin was on its way from Australia to Mexico when the skipper John Hallows ran short of medication. A call for the necessary medication was picked up and arrangements were made for a container ship to rendezvous with the yacht and pass on the medication.

During the exchange unfortunately the yacht and the container ship collided which caused damage to the yacht and after the medication was finally transferred, it was found to be incorrect.

The skipper's wife, Kelly, unfortunately was injured during this collision and with John in pain and his wife injured; arrangements were now underway with the French Navy to do a rescue as they were now both exhausted. For this reason, hourly contact was kept with the yacht and on one occasion a Doctor who was also an Amateur Radio operator, affected an over the air medical examination on both parties.

Conditions on the yacht continued to deteriorate. The useable life raft was damaged and the mast, which held the antenna in place, was also becoming suspect.

At that point, with a rescue ship on its way, contact was made by other amateurs who had experienced similar problems as they had and kept them informed and motivated them to keep going until the rescue ship arrives.

The rescue ship eventually reached them and they were taken aboard. They were both admitted to a hospital in Nuka Hiva in French Polynesia.

The key operators in this rescue effort received a letter of appreciation from Rear Admiral C.D. Wurster of the U.S. Coast Guard. In his letter he commented that their efforts and skills in radio communication directly resulted in the safe rescue of two personnel.

Well done Amateur radio.

#### FINAL NOTE

Looking into the Website of the Radio Society of Great Britain, the number of countries now listed, with their websites for contact during an emergency, has increased to 39 countries. To make a search even more interesting, they can also be searched by Region 1, 2 or 3. for ease of reference.

Whilst searching through their website, they place, like the ARRL, incidents where RAYNET was involved in call-up, on their site for reference and perusal. Some of them make very interesting reading.

Final, final note. The Durban Jo burg repeater link may be closer than you think. Already via a repeater in Germiston on 145, 6125, and an 88.5 tone burst to activate 70 centimetres; we are already linked to Secunda and Kroonstad.

Watch this space, but my thanks to all those involved in this effort.

That s all for today.

Bulletin ends.